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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

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SOPHIE'S VOICE

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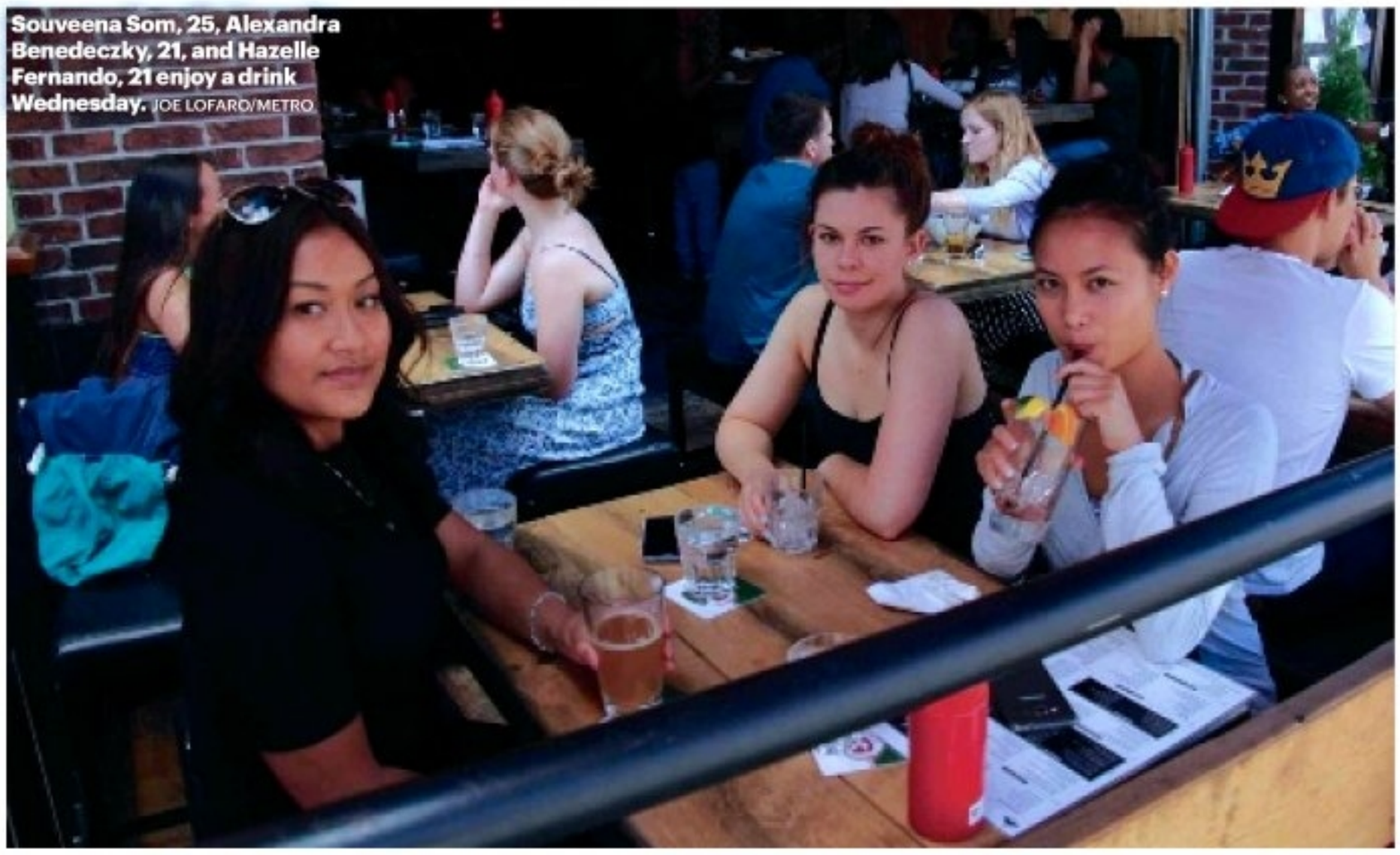

Souveena Som, 25, Alexandra Benedeczky, 21, and Hazelle Fernando, 21 enjoy a drink Wednesday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

PATIO PARADISE

You'll have it made in the shade when city's newest festival comes to Clarence Street in July metroNEWS

A little too much 'tude

CYCLING

City's road safety tweet draws backlash

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A now-deleted tweet by the official City of Ottawa account with a little too much attitude has caused an outcry from both cyclists and motorists.

Earlier this week, the city's account tweeted a diagram of people using the newly installed "crossovers" that give the right of way to pedestrians while crossing a street. The post said, "Cyclists, U too have to stop @ ped crossovers to let people cross. Yes, just like the cars. Yes. Just. Like. Cars."

The message rubbed some people the wrong way.

"The feedback we received from cyclists indicated that the tweet in question detracted from the message," Andrea Lanthier-Seymour, the city's manager of planning and implementation, wrote in an emailed statement. She added that the city is learning from the feedback.

"Based on this, we decided to delete this one tweet," she added.

But Coun. Jeff Leiper said he has received several notes from cyclists angered by the tweet and from drivers upset it has been removed.

"It's frustrating. I'm getting really tired of the bikes-versus-car debate," Leiper said. "The substance of the tweet the city put out was appropriate, but the tone of it was particularly singling out cyclists for perceived transgressions."

Leiper said he wants to see the conversation change citywide.

"Rather than addressing street safety we're perpetuating a bike-versus-car battle," he said. "I don't think it's helpful."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Your favourite British sweets may be hard to come by if there's a Brexit. **World**

The path to equality in politics

Advocacy group Equal Voice has launched a video of 11 female MPs offering advice to their 20-year-old selves. It got us thinking. With gender parity in the federal cabinet, you'd think we'd be celebrating real progress toward the target of 30 per cent female representatives in politics. Ottawa elected only four women to the 24-person council in 2014 — a rate of 17 per cent. We spoke to them about how to be the change.

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Diane Deans

Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans was first elected to council in 1994, and has been there ever since. She's seen her fair share of contentious debates — most recently around the creation of a low-income transit pass — and she's convinced outcomes would be different if more women had a voice.

"Not every decision, not everyday, not every single issue, but there are differences (between men and women) reflected in the conversation, and if you're not at the table then those differences are bigger," Deans said. "There are many examples of decisions that are being made here that I think if we were more reflective of the population then they'd go differently."

But all is not lost. Deans actively encourages young women to get involved, even hosting a workshop at her home to engage women in community work.

She tells them what she would have told her 20-year-old self: "Believe that your decision-making ability is as good as anybody else's, follow your own best judgment, follow your heart, and don't be dissuaded by others."

ALL PHOTOS: EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Jan Harder

Jan Harder has represented Barrhaven since 1998, but she doesn't let her minority status on council affect how she gets things done.

"I spent a lot of time in business and I always was the only female buyer, the only female district manager, the only female whatever," Harder said. "But I've always thought of myself as a person doing the best job I can at any job that I do."

That said, she knows it's still tough for modern women to manage family and career priorities.

"As much as times have changed... it's very, very difficult," she said. "The mother is still the one that carries the load."

Even Harder, who waited until her youngest daughter was 15 before she ran for office, said she left home as late as she could and rushed home as early as possible to spend time with her family.

It's not impossible, though — especially for keen young women who have done the groundwork for success.

"Its just encouraging them to think large, encouraging them to believe, and encouraging them to have confidence," Harder said.

Marianne Wilkinson

Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson was the first woman to run for a seat on the March Township council nearly 50 years ago.

From there she became Kanata's first mayor, and is now in her 10th year on Ottawa city council.

Wilkinson knows what it's like to be a woman in a man's game: She was a young mother of three the first time she was elected in 1969. She faced a lot of criticism for her decision.

While Wilkinson said "people are more open to it now," she said she hears similar complaints from young women who want to get involved in politics.

"The thing that bothered them the most was the way the media portrays women," Wilkinson said. She pointed to the ongoing U.S. election, where Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is constantly criticized for her appearance. "They really don't like the fact that they couldn't be themselves and be accepted the way a guy could be themselves."

Wilkinson said the best way to beat those comments is to "do your homework" and get involved early.

Catherine McKenney

Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney is new to council, but not to politics: she was a staffer for two NDP members of Parliament, and worked for councillors Diane Holmes and Alex Munter before getting elected in 2014.

McKenney's also the first openly gay woman on council. But when she was 20, "politics was the furthest thing from my mind," she said. So, she gets it if today's 20-year-olds aren't exactly inspired by the lacklustre female representation around Ottawa's council table.

"You can understand why she might think, 'How am I going to get there, I don't see a lot of role models,'" McKenney said.

That's a concern, she said, since our governments are still discussing the same issues as the very first women's issues debate in 1984: pay equity, violence against women and daycare. But McKenney encouraged young women to believe in their ability to make positive change — and to turn that into a political career sooner rather than later. "I would have told my 20-year-old self to have more confidence, to know that I could do it, and to move ahead more quickly than I did," McKenney said.

MEMORIAL

FOR U.K. MP JO COX

People honour Jo Cox at the British High Commission in Ottawa Wednesday, the day that would have been her 42nd birthday. She was murdered earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Have you been diagnosed with depression?

Do you continue to have depression symptoms despite taking at least two different antidepressant medications?

Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre is currently enrolling participants for a clinical research study to look at the effectiveness and safety of an investigational medication (given as a nasal spray) in patients with depression who have not responded to prior treatment with at least two antidepressants.

To be considered for the study, you must be:

- 18 to 64 years old
- Diagnosed with depression
- Still be experiencing depression symptoms despite having taken two antidepressant medications in the past
- Comfortable with using a nasal spray
- Able to provide written informed consent

The study doctor will discuss additional requirements for being in the study.

If you are eligible for this study and choose to participate, you will receive all study visits and study-related medical care at no cost to you. Compensation for your time and travel expenses may also be provided.

For more information, please call the study research staff at:

613-715-5938

Want an umbrella with that drink?

COMMUNITY

Relish both at July's Patio Festival in the ByWard Market

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Marilyn Forttier, 25, (left) and Moca Hawey, 25, enjoy mimosas on Clarence Street Wednesday afternoon. JOE LOFARO / METRO

Ottawa's newest summer festival will be opening up Clarence Street to pedestrians and unlimited patios come July.

"Clarence is the place to be for patios and we wanted to do a festival," said Lee Wagner, owner of the Steak & Sushi restaurant on the street. The Clarence Patiofest is being organized by a group of different restaurants on the popular strip in the ByWard Market.

"When it's patio time, people come down here anyway and there's good energy," said Lee. "This just means more people. It'll possibly be one of the biggest strips of patio road in the country."

Lee said the group approached the City of Ottawa and the ByWard Market BIA to get permission to close off the street from Dalhousie Street to Parent Avenue for four different weekends in July.

Lee said the plan has been in the works a year and a half, but the concept echoes the advice of urban planning guru Janette Sadik-Khan, who visited the market in April.

Sadik-Khan suggested taking cars out of the market entirely — as she did with great success in New York's Times Square. This summer residents will get a taste of her idea on Clarence, along with a cold drink.

The street will be closed from 12 to 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Stilt walkers, fire eaters, and rooftop DJ's will join customers dining on the thousand extra chairs and tables that will spill out from the existing patios. Each weekend will have a theme — including beer, burgers, sangria and tacos.

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Max Lin, 3, surveys the toys at a garage sale and barbecue outside Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, which raised funds for Overbrook summer camp. MEGAN DELAIRE/METROLAND

RECREATION

Overbrook camp seeking funding

A summer camp in Overbrook needs the community's support to offer the best it can for its kids.

The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre has partnered with Pro-Active Education for All Children's Enrichment (PEACE) to run a summer camp this summer for underprivileged children. The idea to start the camp only emerged about two months ago — a relatively short period of time to get everything in place, said coordinator Lauren Touchant.

And even though numerous community partners, museums and organizations have stepped forward to offer the camp discounts and outings, there is a funding gap of $7,000 to make the camp all that organizers hope it to be.

"If we don't get the funding, it will be really hard, we won't be able to get the buses to take the children out," Touchant said.

"Every kid deserves the chance to have a wonderful summer, and it's not fair that some can't go because it is becoming so expensive."

There are 60 kids registered for the camp, with 40 of them completely subsidized and many of the others at a discount rate. The regular rate is $20 per day.

Touchant said the camp made specific spaces for Syrian refugee children who will attend the camp.

The camp can only accommodate 60 children, but Touchant said the ultimate goal is to expand the program next year.

MICHELLE NASH BAKER/ METROLAND MEDIA

CRIME

Police hunt man who robbed 4 stores

Ottawa police are on the hunt for a man who robbed four convenience stores at knifepoint across the city over the course of a week.

In each case, the man demanded cash and sometimes cigarettes before fleeing the scene. No injuries were reported.

The series of robberies span the city's west and east ends. Each one took place after midnight:

- June 10 at 1:20 a.m. in the 200 block of Richmond Road
- June 12 at 5 a.m. in the 300 block of McArthur Avenue
- June 15 at 12:45 a.m. in the 5900 block of Jeanne D'Arc Boulevard
- June 16 at 12:50 a.m. in the 700 block of Baseline Road

Surveillance footage released by Ottawa police show the suspect wearing a light brown hat and sunglasses.

The suspect is described as a white male who is between 20 and 25 years old with a slim-to-medium build and is between five-foot-four and five-foot-eight.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Where gamers go to jam

TALENT

Local gaming scene gets boost with event's return

The video game industry may not be as developed in Ottawa as it is in larger markets like Toronto and Montreal, but last year's debut of a local game jam may have been the kickstart the community needed.

Now in its sophomore year, the Ottawa Game Jam (OJAM) will provide a space for professionals to rub shoulders with industry hopefuls June 24-26 at Microsoft's office on Queen Street.

A game jam is where teams develop a game based on a particular theme within a set time limit. Games created at the Game Jam will be hosted on OJAM's website as part of their effort to engage the public.

"Game Jams are a fun environment where teams get together to create something they want. Many people coming work in studios making games and are choosing to spend their weekend making more games," said co-founder Jillian Mood.

According to Mood, the event will prove beneficial to studios in search of talent, and talent in search of information for how to break into the industry.

"I used to be an HR director at a studio here in Ottawa and when I was looking for people to recruit it was never based on a resume coming into my inbox. I would always look for the people that were at events, game jams or making games on the side," she said.

With OJAM fostering unity among developers, and high profile events on the horizon, the Ottawa game industry looks poised to make its mark. MARC SHAW/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Parents take sides in playground debate

MOONEY'S BAY PARK

$2M project spurs petition for new locale

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

A duelling group of parents has emerged on the battlefield that is the Mooney's Bay Park mega-playground.

Carmela Parent and her neighbours are behind a Facebook group, Mooney's Bay Kids, advocating for the pro-playground side of the debate.

"We needed something positive for these kids because these kids were so excited, so motivated to build something, not only with their community, but all across Canada," said Parent, a mother of three, adding that it's the "opportunity of a lifetime and they're getting all this negative feedback through the media."

The city inked a deal with Sinking Ship Entertainment, a children's production company, to split the $2 million project. The company will film children and volunteers as they build "Canada's largest playground" for the TVO series Giver.

Critics claim the city secretly signed the contract and that Sinking Ship was not properly registered as a lobbyist. The city's integrity commissioner, Robert Marleau, is investigating and is due to table a report at the July 13 council meeting.

Those opposed to the playground include users of the Sue Holloway outdoor fitness park, which will be relocated to a different part of the park, and neighbours who say there was no proper public consultation.

Production crews will start filming in early July.

Over a dozen trees have been felled at the north end of the park ahead of construction. ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND MEDIA

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ENERGY

Hydro Ottawa pays $19.4M dividend

After a record-breaking profit year for Hydro Ottawa, the city is getting an extra $1.2-million dividend from the utility.

But local taxpayers shouldn't expect to see their hydro rates drop anytime soon.

The company pulled in $32.4 million in net income in 2015, compared to just over $30 million the previous year, according to an annual Hydro Ottawa report presented to council on Wednesday.

As a result, the company is giving a record $19.4 million in dividends back to the City of Ottawa, compared to $18.2 million in 2014.

Under a new dividend policy, Hydro Ottawa is trying to improve its debt-equity ratio because its credit rating has slightly dipped. It's a complicated new formula that allows the company to reassure bond issuers while generating more revenue, explained Hydro Ottawa board chair Jim Durrell, who's also a former mayor of Ottawa. The company is borrowing funds to pay the city's dividend.

"This is not us trying to pull a fast one on the city," Durrell said.

City manager Steve Kanellakos said the city will revisit the policy after five years, but said it provides consistency in the meantime.

"We're in a great, solid position," he said.

Mayor Jim Watson said wage settlements and inflation will likely eat up much of the extra hydro dividend. Otherwise, the city will have to figure out how to distribute the cash.

Over the next five years, Hydro Ottawa is also planning to pour $500-million into new capital infrastructure.

Because the Ontario Energy Board regulates hydro rates, the profit increase will not affect homeowners' bills.

In fact, hydro users should expect to see their rates increase by an average 2.6 per cent every year over the next five years.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Bryce Conrad, president and CEO of Hydro Ottawa. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

IN BRIEF

Jazz Fest clarification

In the June 22 edition of Metro Ottawa, incorrect dates and times were listed for Ottawa Jazz Festival's late-night jam sessions. The jams will run June 23 to July 3, beginning at 10:30 p.m. at the Lord Elgin Hotel. METRO

Kingston woman charged in roommate's assault

Police say a 46-year-old Kingston, Ont., woman faces charges after allegedly assaulting her roommate with exercise equipment.

Early Wednesday, officers responded to a report that the accused was confronting a 39-year-old female at a Kingston home, but found no sign of assault. An hour later, police returned to find the victim with a head wound.

Investigators say she'd been hit with a braided rope with a metal carabiner and ring on both ends. She was taken to hospital and treated for minor wounds.

The 46-year-old woman was arrested and is charged with assault with a weapon and breach of probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shuttle to up services

TRANSPORTATION

Para Transpo to cover all disabilities

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Changes at Para Transpo "go even further" than advocates could have hoped, said Judy Bernstein.

She's with the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Disabilities, and she's been pushing the city for years to include people with cognitive impairments.

That's exactly what staff proposed in a report headed to Transit Commission next Monday.

Para is currently reserved for people with mobility problems, but the new rules would add developmental challenges and even mental health issues, too.

Bernstein said it's "huge" in particular for those who can take OC Transpo for routine trips, but don't have the skills to navigate to one-off appointments.

"Unless there are people who can take them, they just don't go," she said.

The new "conditional" category addresses that, and if passed will be a big relief for caregivers, too, Bernstein said.

Under the new regime, health-care professionals will assess each application and the city will create a formal appeals process, according to the report.

Riders like Joy Tomkinson won't be the only clients allowed to ride Para Transpo if councillors accept staff's recommendations to include cognitive and mental health disabilities. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

INNOVATION PROGRAM

City pilots 8 start-up projects

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa is test-driving eight projects for a "municipal innovation pilot program."

The crop of start-ups — picked from a pool of 65 local and national applicants — includes cyber security, social media analytics and cloud software companies.

One Ottawa-based company, Key2Access, has developed a product that will help people with visual and physical impairments activate the walk signal at intersections. Signority has an e-signature product, while Carleton University's Gamifi is creating interactive software for municipal mental health awareness training.

After the testing phase is done, the companies may have the chance to bid on city contracts. However, the city is not obligated to sign contracts or buy any projects.

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Refugees still facing delays, sponsors say

SYRIAN CRISIS

500 families, 2,900 people, still wait to come to Canada

Syrian refugee children look out from their tent at a camp in Sidon, Lebanon on May 3, 2016. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In January, Canadian officials matched Sarah Crawford and her sponsorship group with a Syrian family in Turkey and told them the refugees could be here in as soon as four weeks.

The group spent thousands of dollars renting a bungalow near Victoria Park Ave. and Ellesmere Rd. that sat empty for four months before the family of six finally arrived on June 1 from Istanbul.

Despite the long wait and wasted rent money, Crawford's group, Rise Again, from Rosedale United Church, is actually one of the lucky ones. Hundreds of other groups are still waiting for their families to arrive.

According to Canada for Refugees, a coalition of community sponsorship groups, some 2,900 refugees, or about 500 families, who have been fully approved and are ready to travel are stuck in limbo.

"We are asking the Canadian government to arrange charter flights to get these approved families to Canada quickly," said Doug Earl, of Canada for Refugees. "The refugees are in very precarious situations in the Middle East, and there are many citizen sponsorship groups here in Canada waiting to welcome them."

On May 9, Ottawa dispatched 40 additional staff to the Middle East to process Syrian refugee sponsorship applications, in response to a public outcry over processing delays after the government met its target of resettling 25,000 Syrians refugees by the end of February.

The latest revelation of delays came just as the government wrapped up a six-week "blitz" in which officials completed 6,100 refugee interviews.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, these individuals and families will continue through the screening process, including full health and security checks. It will be another three to six months before they arrive.

"While it is important to prepare for the arrival of the sponsored refugees, we encourage sponsors not to obtain permanent accommodations too far in advance," the immigration department said

Earl said the number of Syrian refugees waiting for planes to Canada is increasing by 70 a week, and in one of its members' cases, the family was approved in late February and has yet to arrive.

"Many of these families have children whose best interests would be being settled in Canada before the start of the school year," said Earl. "For that to happen, they need to be moved now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

Trudeau wants PM's wife's role modernized

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau. GETTY IMAGES

Justin Trudeau summed up his first months in government with a self-congratulatory pat on the back for keeping key electoral promises to aid middle-class families, while also answering questions about the role of a prime minister's wife.

In a news conference eight months after taking power, Trudeau reflected on the work of wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau when asked if it was time to modernize the role and provide resources for spouses of a prime minister, such as his own. Trudeau answered in French, "Absolutely."

Trudeau said he was "very proud" of the work Grégoire Trudeau has done for years on women's and children's issues.

Trudeau and his wife were dogged by headlines when they first hired two nannies on the public payroll to help her take care of their three children and juggle various official and unofficial tasks. In May, she said she needed more staff to "serve the people."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Guard unhurt after prison hostage-taking incident

Quebec provincial police say a hostage-taking at a courthouse in a remote Quebec town on Wednesday ended after a few hours.

Police say two convicts took a female correctional officer hostage in Sept-Iles before eventually surrendering.

She was not hurt, said police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FW-21 : METRO OTTAWA

Brexit may crush your candy

UNITED KINGDOM

Vote could have impact on Canada-EU trade agreement

May Warren & Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Brexit may be a bloody big deal, but some Canadians are worried it will sour their chances of getting sweet and savoury treats.

Millions of Brits go to the polls Thursday to decide on staying in or leaving the European Union. There are huge issues at stake, from immigration to millions of jobs.

But there's also small stuff that could be caught in the crosshairs if the U.K votes to leave.

Andrew Cardozo, who imports British products, from mushy peas to "prawn cocktail" crisps, to his shop London Calling in Toronto, Ont., said he's following the debate closely and is concerned about what might happen if Britain bolts.

"I'll be upset if I can't get them," said Cardozo, in front of rows of imported Cadbury chocolates.

Andrew Cardozo's store, London Calling, may be caught in the middle of the Brexit debate. Cardozo is concerned about his imports if Britain leaves the European Union. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

"I think the younger people are more going to be voting yes. I have friends in Ireland and they want to move to London, so if it goes no, they're not going to be able to go to London and work," he added.

In 2013 Canada reached a free trade agreement in principle with the EU, known as CETA, but it hasn't been ratified yet.

Crina Viju, an assistant professor of European Economic Integration at Carleton University, said its future is uncertain if the U.K. pulls out.

But she doubts Britain will put up any barriers to trade with Canada even if it decides to fly solo.

"It's up in the air," she said. "Everything has to be renegotiated of course.

"If the U.K. will be out of the EU before the ratification happens, what kind of deal will they sign with Canada? The same? Or a better one, or a worse one? Again it's a question," she said.

Paul Million, owner of Mississauga's Simply British foods, is also watching the referendum closely, and has been waiting for the free trade agreement to be ratified because it will allow him to import British meat products he hasn't been able to sell since Mad Cow disease.

"If the U.K. decides that they want to pull out than that whole thing will probably unravel," he said.

"I think it's going to be a close call."

MUNCHIES

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Referendum explained

On Thursday, citizens of the United Kingdom will vote in a referendum on whether their country should remain in or withdraw from the European Union. Here's what you need to know.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

The referendum question will read, "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

CANADIANS CAN VOTE?

Yes, if you are a Canadian citizen who currently lives in the U.K.

WHAT DO POLLS SAY?

According to the Financial Times's Brexit poll tracker, it's a neck-and-neck race, with 44 per cent in favour of remaining with the EU, 45 per cent in favour of leaving and 11 per cent undecided.

WILL LEAVING IMPACT THE ECONOMY?

In the short term, a vote to leave will likely weaken the pound, and could boost the U.S. dollar as investors look for more stable currencies.

There is largely consensus amongst economists that leaving the EU would have long-term negative consequences for the U.K. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SMARTPHONE

BlackBerry focused on phone profits

BlackBerry Ltd. has targeted this fiscal year to make money from its smartphone business, chief executive John Chen told shareholders at the company's annual general meeting in Waterloo Wednesday.

"We need to make that profitable . . . we have a plan for it," Chen said during a sometimes unruly meeting that saw one investor challenge executive compensation at BlackBerry and accuse management of "bleeding the company dry."

Chen was awarded $85.7 million US in 2014, his first year as CEO, with most of the compensation in the form of restricted shares that vest over five years. His pay fell 96 per cent to $3.4 million in fiscal 2015.

"The device business must be profitable, because we don't want to run a business that drags onto the bottom line," Chen told the meeting. "We've got to get there this year," referring to BlackBerry fiscal 2017 that started in March.

Chen in April said the company would consider ditching the hardware business by September if it cannot be made profitable, stressing, though, that BlackBerry was "very close" to at least breaking even on device sales.

He said then that the operation could be viable with as few as three million annual shipments.

BlackBerry said it recognized revenue on just 600,000 handsets in the fiscal fourth quarter versus 700,000 in the previous three months and did not specify how many of those devices were the Priv.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW IDEA

One shareholder suggested BlackBerry place banner ads on porn sites to market its devices.

The DJI Inspire Raw drone helicopter on display at CES International on Jan. 4 in Las Vegas. It's a little early to tell if the idea will fly, but Canada Post is starting to look at the role of drones in making deliveries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Post exploring the skies

MAIL

No plans for deliveries with drones ... yet

It's a little early to tell if the idea will fly, but Canada Post is starting to look at the role of drones in making deliveries.

The post office is quietly exploring the possibility of small, unmanned aerial vehicles one day helping get the mail to where it needs to go, said Jon Hamilton, a Canada Post spokesman.

"We are in a competitive space, especially when it comes to parcel delivery and things like that," Hamilton said in an interview.

"There was a lot of time between moving from horses to trains. Things don't move that slowly anymore."
Jon Hamilton

In the post office's 250-year history, the manner of getting letters and parcels to Canadians has evolved from a couple of horses to trains, trucks and planes — so it makes sense to eye lightweight, remote-controlled aircraft, he said.

"We do look into these things."

The tiny flying machines have become immensely popular with hobbyists. But they're also used for a variety of government-related and commercial applications, including agricultural surveys, movie shoots, police investigations, meteorology, and search and rescue.

Canada Post declined to release documents through the Access to Information Act about its interest in drones, citing sensitivities such as trade secrets and financial, commercial, scientific or technical data.

But Hamilton insists there are no drone prototypes in the post office laboratory — at least not yet.

He characterized the effort as a "paper exercise" at the very early exploratory stages, aimed at "examining what's out there today."

"It's not something that Canadians are going to see any time soon, if at all."

Still, Canada Post is conscious that companies such as online retailer Amazon are actively investigating delivery drones.

"It may be something that has applications for the postal service," Hamilton said. "But it may be something that is just more of an emerging threat to the existing postal business, and how do we respond to that?"

Amazon bills Prime Air as a future service that will deliver packages weighing up to five pounds in 30 minutes or less using small drones. The company says it has developed more than a dozen vehicle designs, with testing under way in multiple international locales, including British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, June 23, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON TORY LEADERSHIP MANOEUVRING

Winning Quebec will not alone win anyone the Conservative leadership next spring, but being shut out of the province could be fatal — especially if Ontario splits three or four ways.

On a day-to-day basis, few Parliament watchers pay attention to Lévis-Lobtinière MP Jacques Gourde. On the Hill, his main claim to fame is to have been the only Conservative from Quebec to not make the cut of Stephen Harper's last cabinet. He spent his party's decade in power on the backbench of the government. In the new Parliament, the scenery is different but Gourde's role is as low-key as in the previous ones.

But outside the bubble, the fourth-term MP is distinguished by his electoral resilience. In contrast with colleagues invested with more gravitas such as Michael Fortier — Harper's handpicked senatorial minister for Montreal — or Lawrence Cannon, Josée Verner and Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Gourde kept his rural Quebec seat through challenging Conservative times. He even survived the 2011 orange wave.

Gourde's forte is organization. He cut his teeth as a volunteer for the provincial Action Démocratique du Québec party and the federal Conservatives at a time when both were facing uphill battles just to be taken seriously. In 2006 he decided to run.

In that federal campaign, Gourde's riding was one of the few places where Harper could hope to draw a decent crowd. On one visit to the rural riding, a cortege of 50 pickup trucks was reportedly on hand to provide a motorcade for the Conservative leader. It probably helped that it was the dead of winter and that Gourde's fellow farmers had a bit of time on their hands.

As the long campaign to select a successor to Harper slowly gets underway, most Conservative MPs are keeping their cards close to their chests. They want to see the full lineup before they commit to a camp.

But Gourde has already made his choice. He is the co-chair of Maxime Bernier's leadership campaign and more of a catch than appearances or titles would suggest.

For, notwithstanding his native son status, it is hardly a given that Bernier will earn the backing of many more Quebec MPs.

His penchant for taking a knife to sacred cows has not necessarily endeared him to his colleagues

He once mused about doing away with the language law — a notion that has only negative traction within Quebec's political class.

He believes Canada's corporations, including Bombardier, should be weaned from federal subsidies.

More recently, Bernier came out against supply management, a program of iconic status in rural Quebec. Gourde had to scramble to explain that stance to his own constituents. He ended up soft-pedalling it.

All of which is to say that when the time comes to collect endorsements, the Beauce MP might not be overwhelmed with Quebec caucus support. But by then, it may not matter all that much.

In a one-member, one-vote leadership contest, the weight of the party establishment is infinitely less significant than in the days when so-called ex-officio delegates made up as much as a third of those who voted at delegated conventions.

A solid organization can trump myriad high-profile endorsements.

Just ask former Ontario Tory minister Christine Elliott. She had impeccable connections to the party establishment and a proven track record ... and she was trounced by federal backbencher Patrick Brown in last year's Ontario Tory leadership vote.

Could Bernier pull the same trick at the federal level? That would depend on whether his campaign has boots on the ground in the other regions. This is one operation where having support a mile wide, even if only an inch deep, is actually better than the alternative.

In the Conservative leadership arithmetic, every riding is worth an equal number of points regardless of the size of its membership. Securing a solid footing in Quebec — the province with the second-highest number of seats — early on could turn Bernier into more of a force to contend with than his opponents expect or the polls suggest.

Winning Quebec will not alone win anyone the Conservative leadership next spring, but being shut out of the province could be fatal — especially if Ontario splits three or four ways.

While so-called big name candidates such as Jason Kenney and Peter MacKay fiddle with possible leadership bids, Bernier is preemptively locking Quebec votes. Sometimes the early bird does catch the worm!

FACE OF A KINGMAKER? Low-profile Conservative MP Jacques Gourde is known as a master campaign organizer. Having hitched his wagon to Maxime Bernier, Gourde could play the key role in the party's leadership contest. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Campus-sex-assault fight requires paradigm shift on privacy issues

When universities play the privacy card in sexual assault allegations, it's a supremely terrible look.

Last week, it was Simon Fraser University's turn to seem both heartless and spineless, the one-two punch of bad PR.

To all questions asked about any details of the case of a male student accused by three female students of sexual assault — complaints more fulsomely catalogued in a series of pieces by the Vancouver Sun's Daphne Bramham — officials responded with the mantra: "I cannot comment due to privacy concerns."

It's a line that sounds suspiciously like obfuscation and brand management. But to be fair, universities are in a legal bind. All public institutions are governed by provincial access to information and protection of privacy laws that include broad restrictions not just for privacy, but the dissemination of any personal information.

Essentially, as privacy expert and lawyer Michael Power told me, schools are prohibited from publishing details that may lead to a person being identified. Power himself would counsel this exact tight-lipped approach.

But this abundance of caution is far from just. It is purely and only legally expedient, and it must change.

Not only does the status quo threaten the safety of women by obscuring important information about alleged criminals, but it de facto privileges the privacy rights of said alleged criminals over justice for victims, nevermind the school's interest in avoiding bad press. This has been the case at schools for decades. No surprise then, evidenced by abysmal reporting rates (about one in 10 assaults), that women have noticed.

We are at a turning point, where provinces are beginning to force universities to institute clear and discrete sexual assault policies. But the laws, while more thorough in Ontario than B.C., remain too weak. They require policies in only the broadest of terms, and rely on schools, historically feeble protectors of women's safety, to magically transform into robust ones. There's no demand to routinely collect and publish crucial data that could finally offer a truer window into the problem. And there are no requirements for universities to report sexual assault complaints to police.

Nor do these bills change the balance of power on campus, which favours the privacy of alleged rapists. Sure, that's how privacy laws have been written. But since they lead to negligent behaviour on the part of colleges, it seems high time we amend those laws to allow more transparency.

If we don't, even schools that want to be more transparent will be prevented from doing so. And the public, and most importantly survivors, will believe that, on sexual violence, schools are all lip service and no action.

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Bryan Cranston signs on for Power Rangers movie reboot

Tumbling over the edge — in a barrel

DEBUT NOVEL

Story of quirky family pegged on daredevil waterfall stunt

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Whenever Amy Jones visits Kakabeka Falls, which isn't far from her home in Thunder Bay, she often has a morbid thought: "What would happen if I fell in?"

And that's what happens to her character, Kate Parker, the matriarch of a dysfunctional family, in Jones' funny but heartfelt debut novel, We're All in This Together.

Except that Kate intentionally chooses to go over the 40-metre-high falls, daredevil-style, in a barrel. (In reality, Jones is fairly certain that no one could survive the ride.) Kate's kamikaze-grandma stunt is captured on a video that goes viral and makes international tabloid news, pulling together three generations of the Parkers in what is only the beginning of the family's adventure.

Kate's near death brings back to town her daughter Finn, the only member to have left Thunder Bay and whose lonely life in Toronto has fallen apart.

Kate's husband, Walter, seems in turn bewildered and accepting of his wife's erratic behaviour. There's Shawn, a former street kid who has lived with the Parkers for years but still feels emotionally insecure in his position within the family, and his wife Katriina, a seemingly all-together real estate agent with dark secrets of her own.

Really what I find fascinating about living here are the people and their tenacity. The real family connections that people have. Amy Jones on Thunder Bay, Ont.

And then there's Nikki — Finn's identical twin sister and opposite in all ways — a fiery single mom with several kids, including a son conceived with Finn's then-boyfriend, and London, a precocious animal lover who falls in love online with a Shark Week host.

We're All in This Together is a complicated layering of time shifts and perspectives, as each character takes their turn revealing their inner emotional lives and personal history. In writing the manuscript, Jones used sheets of Bristol board and coloured markers to keep track of all the various timelines and backstories.

"It was a big knot that I was trying to untangle, pulling out threads," she says.

Jones always knew that she wanted her book to be set in Thunder Bay, her adopted home of six years. Many of the short stories in her first book, What Boys Like, were set in Halifax, where she grew up.

"It's become part of my trademark," she says.

"I really like writing about places."

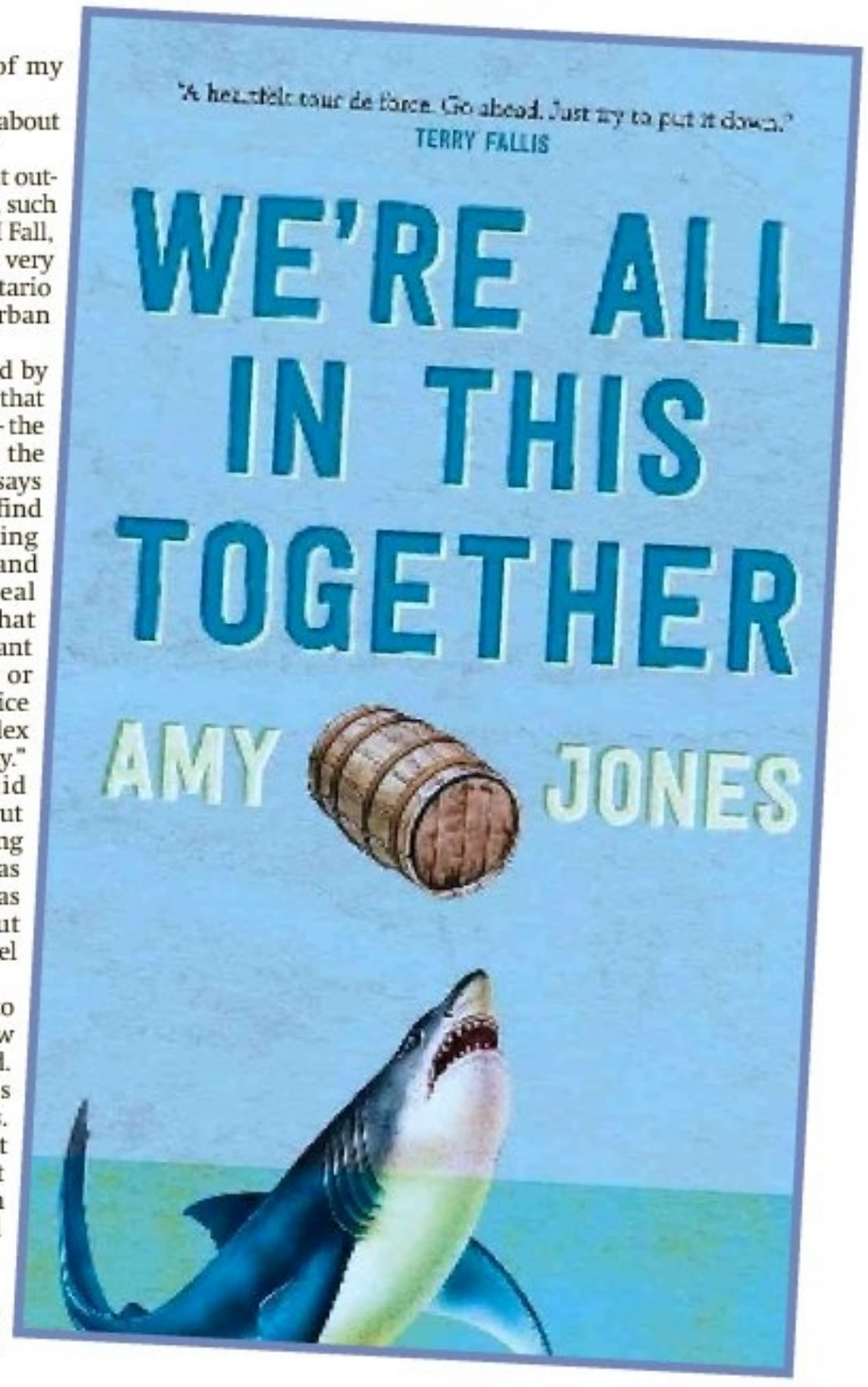
She had observed that outside of a few exceptions, such as Michael Christie's If I Fall, If I Die, there has been very little northwestern Ontario literature set in an urban environment.

"I feel really inspired by the city. Not in the way that people would assume — the natural landscape and the forest and the lake," says Jones. "Really what I find fascinating about living here are the people and their tenacity. The real family connections that people have. The constant pull of needing to go or wanting to stay, and vice versa. It's a very complex relationship with the city."

Although Jones did plenty of research about the region, even digging deep into topics such as ground erosion, she was more concerned about getting the emotional feel of Thunder Bay right.

"I really did want it to reflect back what I saw and what I experienced. I tried to be as honest as I could be," says Jones. "I didn't think about it when I was writing, but since people have been reading the book, I feel like an ambassador."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



POLITICS & POETRY

You know the Republicans honestly folks our leaders our leaders have to get tougher. This is too tough to do it alone but you know what I think I'm gonna be forced to. I think I'm going to be forced to. Our leaders have to get a lot tougher. And be quiet, just please be quiet don't talk please be quiet. Just be quiet to the leaders. — Donald Trump

There is singularly nothing that makes a difference a difference in beginning and in the middle and in ending except that each generation has something different at which they are all looking. By this I mean so simply that anybody knows it that composition is the difference which makes each and all of them then different from other generations and this is what makes everything different otherwise they are all alike and everybody knows it because everybody says it. — Gertrude Stein

For months, the baffling, repetitious ravings of Donald Trump niggled at the back of the mind of University of Pennsylvania linguistics professor Mark Liberman: Something was familiar. "Where else have I seen or heard this pointillistic, repetitive style?" Liberman mused this week on his blog, Language log. He took out the punctuation, and "suddenly the stylistic model leaps off the page." Trump's speeches are uncannily similar to 20th century poet Gertrude Stein — known for her skilful use of nonsense and repetition. GENNA BUCK/METRO

GRAPHIC NOVEL

When superheroes don't save you

Dark Night: A True Batman Story
BY: Paul Dini and Eduardo Russo
PUBLISHER: DC Comics/Vertigo

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

One night, Batman writer Paul Dini was walking alone when two men approached, yelling insults.

They beat him, badly, sending him to the hospital. But although the physical damage was severe, the worst damage was psychological. How can you write Batman: The Animated Series when you know there's no hero coming to save you?

This unusual graphic novel is something special. Although it features comic book characters like Harley Quinn, who Dini co-created, it's autobiographical.

The costumed heroes and villains are in Dini's imagination, manifesting as he tries to recover from his injuries, seen and unseen, and regain his voice as a writer.

The story is harrowing in places, especially a scene where Dini self-harms using an Emmy Award he's just won.

There's also a brutality in the writing, as if he's beating himself up with criticism and too much honesty.

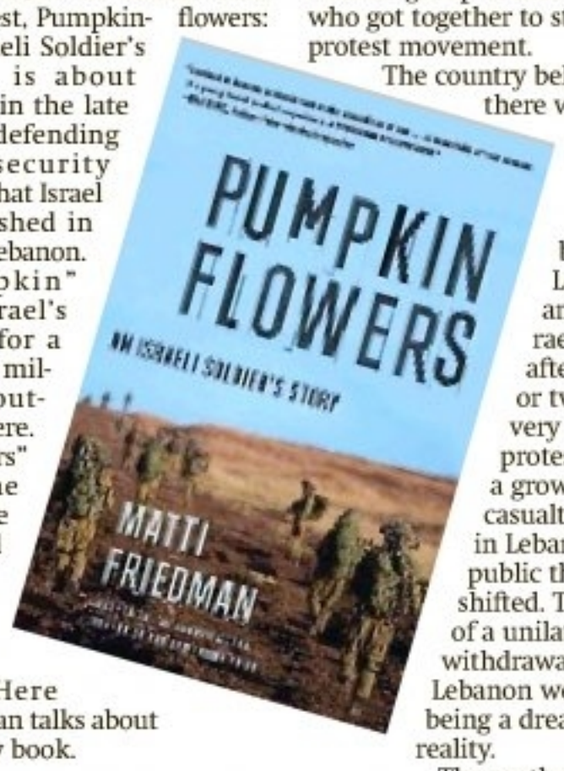
But there's charm, too, and a story that will engage anyone who's felt introverted, or alone, or in need of a hero.

A soldier's view of the Middle East

NEW BOOK

Matti Friedman looks at the absurd nature of war

After finishing high school in Toronto, Matti Friedman decided to go to Israel. He was required, like others of his age, to do army service, a teenager who had never held a gun. Friedman later became a journalist and has written several books about the Middle East. His latest, Pumpkin flowers: An Israeli Soldier's Story, is about troops in the late 1990s defending the "security zone" that Israel established in south Lebanon. "Pumpkin" was Israel's name for a hilltop military outpost there. "Flowers" was the code word for soldiers felled in action. Here Friedman talks about his new book.



The first section of your book deals with a young Israeli soldier, Avi, who was killed at the Pumpkin in a terrible helicopter crash. You never met Avi. Why write about him rather than one of his peers who were also killed? Just because Avi had a rebellious streak?

I knew the story needed to start in 1997, when the hill became notorious because of the helicopter crash that killed 73 soldiers. I looked for soldiers who had been on the hill before I arrived. I went around the country meeting different guys who had passed through this strange outpost in the 1990s and I also spoke to parents of soldiers who had died at the outpost.

I learned about Avi in one of these meetings and then met his parents. It turned out that Avi had not only been at the outpost, but he had written a considerable amount about being there. Most of us didn't do that. We were extremely young and we didn't think that what we were seeing was important and we were preoccupied with just getting through. As soon as I saw his writing and saw he had a unique pair of eyes, I knew I could write about him.

During the time you served in the Israeli army, Israeli mothers were pushed to protest their sons' involvement in fighting the guerrillas in Lebanon.

The group called Four Mothers was formed shortly after the helicopter crash. At this point, the country is starting to think about the Lebanon enterprise. The catalyst for this change in public opinion was the group of mothers who got together to start a protest movement.

The country believed there was a need for a security zone between Lebanon and Israel. But after a year or two of very active protest and a growing casualty toll in Lebanon, public thought shifted. The idea of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon went from being a dream to a reality.

The mothers were very tenacious in their activities. It is a demonstration of what a small number of citizens can pull off in a democracy. In the 1990s there was a broad peace movement in Israel which really believed we would get peace and have a better future. Then in 2000, Israel withdraws from Lebanon. The next spring the peace process collapses. It collapses with the rise of the Hezbollah (a Lebanese-based terror organization) and the worst wave of terrorism Israel had ever seen.

What we have now is a Middle East that is much worse than anyone could have imagined. Reality in this region has not been kind to the Four Mothers and the peace movement. What is going on now was born out the darkest dreams of those on the right.

A Canadian friend of yours travelled safely through Lebanon and you decided to go see the country yourself, hiding your Israeli identity and assuming the posture of a Canadian backpacker with no command of Hebrew and no Israeli past. That must have been wonderful and terrifying.

It was both. After I came out of the army, I expected to forget about my experiences at Pumpkin, but I couldn't. It wouldn't leave me alone. I became fixated by the need to go back to this hill and see it as a civilian. When we were soldiers, we joked that the place was so beautiful we would come back to hike there as tourists. For everyone in my unit it was impossible because they were Israelis and couldn't cross the border. But I realized after the arrival of my friend that as a Canadian, I could.

Two and a half years after my discharge I flew to Toronto and then flew to Lebanon as a Canadian and spent a few weeks there and had the most incredible time and saw the place with a different set of eyes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **What we have now is a Middle East that is much worse than anyone could have imagined**
> Matti Friedman

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POLITICS AND POETRY COLLIDE

For months, the baffling, repetitious ravings of Donald Trump niggled at the back of the mind of University of Pennsylvania linguistics professor Mark Liberman: Something was familiar.

"Where else have I seen or heard this pointillistic, repetitive style?" Liberman mused this week on his blog, Language log.

He took out the punctuation, and "suddenly the stylistic model leaps off the page."

Trump's speeches are uncannily similar to 20th century poet Gertrude Stein — known for her skilful use of nonsense and repetition.

GENNA BUCK/METRO

> You know the Republicans honestly folks our leaders our leaders have to get tougher. This is too tough to do it alone but you know what I think I'm gonna be forced to. I think I'm going to be forced to. Our leaders have to get a lot tougher. And be quiet, just please be quiet don't talk please be quiet. Just be quiet to the leaders. — Donald Trump

> There is singularly nothing that makes a difference a difference in beginning and in the middle and in ending except that each generation has something different at which they are all looking. By this I mean so simply that anybody knows it that composition is the difference which makes each and all of them then different from other generations and this is what makes everything different otherwise they are all alike and everybody knows it because everybody says it. — Gertrude Stein

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Lawren Harris doc relishes in his prose

Ben Low as Lawren Harris at Quidi Vidi, Newfoundland, from the documentary Where the Universe Sings: The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Where the Universe Sings: The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris
THE MOMENT: The letter to Emily

As we see in this documentary by Nancy Lang and Peter Raymont, the Canadian painters Lawren Harris and Emily Carr met in 1927 and began exchanging letters. She praised his "world shorn of fretting details, purged and purified."

He encouraged her, "Stay with your own way. Use the feeling that the stuff is awful to make the next thing less awful. I've learned to keep right on, despite the recurring sureness that my stuff is pretty damn sad."

A more succinct summary of the artistic mindset you cannot find.

Harris didn't leave us only paintings. He also gave us reams about why he painted; why he needed to.

"I'm in great need of losing my littleness," he wrote in 1930, on his first trip to the Arctic, where he'd make some of his most definitive work. "I'm hoping to get freed from my inhibitions and move into exaltation."

This doc makes liberal use of Harris's prose. Sometimes we hear it in voice-over (from Colm Feore) while an actor pretends to paint. This is hokey but forgivable. Much better are the times when his words wash over us while the camera lingers on his art. In these moments, the spiritual journey promised by the title comes most alive.

I'm truly worried for future biographers and filmmakers, who will have to explain their subjects without the gift of correspondence.

You don't find a phrase like, "Art is a bridge between the great moral harmony of the universe and our own souls" in an email.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

When superheroes don't save you

Dark Night: A True Batman Story
BY: Paul Dini and Eduardo Russo
PUBLISHER: DC Comics/Vertigo

One night, Batman writer Paul Dini was walking alone when two men approached, yelling insults.

They beat him, badly, sending him to the hospital. But although the physical damage was severe, the worst damage was psychological. How can you write Batman: The Animated Series when you know there's no hero coming to save you?

This unusual graphic novel is something special. Although it features comic book characters like Harley Quinn, who Dini co-created, it's autobiographical.

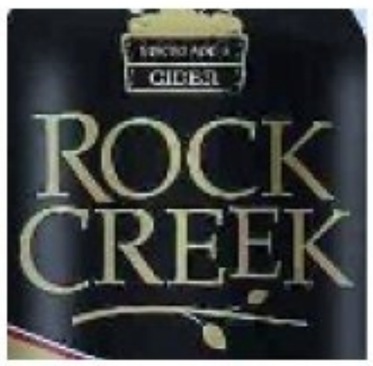
The costumed heroes and villains are in Dini's imagination, manifesting as he tries to recover from his injuries, seen and unseen, and regain his voice as a writer. The story is harrowing in places, especially a scene where Dini self-harms using an Emmy Award he's just won. There's also a brutality in the writing, as if he's beating himself up with criticism and too much honesty.

But there's charm, too.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

5 CIDERS TO QUENCH YOUR SUMMER THIRST

What's old is brewed again: The drink of summer 2016 has a very 1716 feel to it. Humble apple cider, the brew of choice during Canada's pioneer days, is back in a big way. The naturally gluten-free fermented fruit drink, often called hard cider in North America, is hydrating, bubbly and slightly sweet. Here are five rising cider stars. **GENNA BUCK/METRO** GENNA.BUCK@METRONEWS.CA



1 Rock Creek Dry Apple Cider

From: Alberta
Alcohol: 5.5%
This fruity, fragrant, not-too-bubbly cider is a favourite on the west coast and the Prairies. Its notes of vanilla and cinnamon pair perfectly with cheeses like cheddar, gouda and brie and the smoky flavours of pulled pork or sausages.

2 B.C. Tree Fruits Apple&Hops

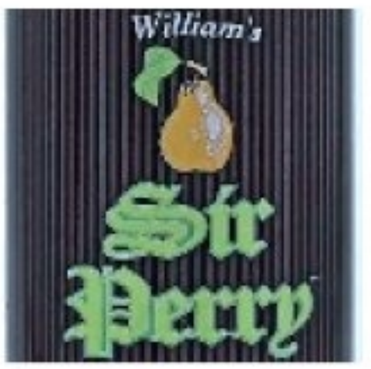
From: B.C.
Alcohol: 6%
This rising star from B.C. is hopping on the trend of adding hops to cider for a fusion of bitter beeriness with sweet cider taste. It's dry and tart with a creamy gold colour and hints of grapefruit.

3 Pommies Dry cider

From: Ontario
Alcohol: 5%
Pommies is a light, crisp refreshing summer alternative to white wine or coolers. It goes down easily with summer fruits and makes an intriguing addition to a bellini with your favourite cognac-based fruit liqueur.

4 Brickworks Queen Street 501

From: Ontario
Alcohol: 5%
As Toronto's Brickworks Cider-house was recently bought by the big-box Canadian Mill Street Brewery, this slightly sweeter cider is showing up in more stores than ever. Its flavour, with notes of honey, is perfect for summer sipping on the patio and makes a refreshing alternative to dessert wine.



5 William's Sir Perry Pear Cider

From: U.K.
Alcohol: 6%
Don't like them apples very much? Try a fruity import from across the pond. Very bubbly and fairly sweet, this pear cider with hints of peach and apple tastes best over lots of ice.

CIDER'S SWEET RISE

"Cider is in this perfect position between craft beer and wine," said Thomas Wilson, chair of the Ontario Craft Cider Association.

Wine is too strong for many, he said, and beer makes a lot of people feel bloated. But cider hits that sweet spot, clocking in between 3 and 10 per cent alcohol by volume.

Sales of craft cider have grown by 54 per cent over the past year just in Ontario. For a long time, cider just wasn't cool. "It was what farm workers drank after work," Wilson said. Now the trend's reversed. "People are getting away from fine dining," Wilson said, in favour of "pub peasant food" that goes great with cider.

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Canadian Heritage
Patrimoine canadien

Find your inner child this year

Do you remember how much you used to look forward to summer as a kid?

We'd look forward to it all year because it meant no homework, not having to wake up early and go to school and getting to play every day at summer camp. It meant getting to be kids.

As adults, we may have lost some of that excitement. But just because we have to go to work doesn't mean we can't still experience some of that summer magic. Here are five things you can do during the warmer months to delight in the season and feel young at heart.

Do something outdoors

Get active and remember what it's like to be bouncing around outside with energy.

Go play with your dog in the park — if you don't have one offer to walk a neighbour's or a friend's dog. Get in a fun workout by playing Frisbee with your kids or nieces and nephews, or by taking a long bike ride and getting lost in your city. As a bonus, you'll get to soak up some vitamin D, something most Canadians don't get enough of.

Do something adventurous

What could make you feel more like a kid again than doing something outside your comfort zone? Think about your biggest fear and conquer it. Afraid of heights? Go skydiving. Terrified of speaking in public? Join a Toastmasters club, which helps members improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills. Adventure means different things to different people — find something brave and daring to do and scratch it off your bucket list.

Do something crafty

Summer is the perfect time to get crafty by drawing inspiration from nature in its peak or making something with the natural materials you can now access, like twigs and flowers.

Whether it's sitting outside and sketching your surroundings or baking your first ever apple pie from scratch, impress your friends with something new.

Do something good

Part of youthful innocence and wonder is the wholesome desire to help others, without any expectation of getting something in return.

Return to this feeling by supporting a charity that works with children and moms — check out the work UNICEF is doing with support from Kiwanis and the Government of Canada to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a disease that kills one newborn baby every 11 minutes.

You've worked hard

Don't feel the need to cram every free minute with fun activities. Sometimes just relaxing with the people you care about is the best way to feel young again.

NEWS CANADA

Get outside and play with your dog. No dog? Go play with your friend's dog! ISTOCK

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Marie Antoinette with a Rose (detail), 1783. Collection of Lynda and Stewart Resnick

Lots of summer fun on little summer funds

Who says an amazing, memorable summer with the family needs to cost a bundle? This year, plan to save with these budget-friendly tips and tricks everyone in your gang is sure to love.

Stay cool

Does anything say summer more than sun and swim? Playing in the water is a free way to make the most out of those long sunny days you're sure to miss in the fall. Visit the splash pad in your local park, go for a swim in your community pool, or if you live close to a beach or lake, make a day of it and bring a picnic.

Do it yourself, literally

Embrace the DIY trend and spend an afternoon making that antique-look shelf you've always admired on Pinterest. Or grab the little ones and find a kid friendly-friendly project online, like a fairy door they can help decorate or funky animals made out of paper plates.

Take advantage of summer promos

Many companies offer great deals so you can enjoy their products and services throughout the season. Get a season pass at your city's amusement part or zoo, or join a hotel rewards program where you can earn points on every last-minute trip and use them for free stays later. For example, the Marriot Rewards program is offering members a summer bonus that lets you earn additional bonus points on hotel stays this summer and enters you into their sweepstakes for a chance to win even more points for future stays.

Also good to know: You get the best rates when you book directly on the hotel's website.

Feeling the heat? Go jump in a lake. ISTOCK

Check out local events and festivals

Towns and cities love to celebrate with special events, many of which are free or pay-what-you-can. Catch a Shakespeare-in-the-park production, bring your furry best friend to a dog festival, or try your new favourite food at a multicultural celebration.

Plan an upcycle swapping party

Invite your friends with kids of any age over for some fun and trading. Trade gently-used toys that have gone out of favour and clothes that don't fit anymore for an affordable way to freshen up their treasure chests and wardrobes. Older kids can swap video games and costume jewellery. NEWS CANADA

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Design company Dos de Tres turns vintage telephones into lamps

MEET THE CONDO

Aviation looks ready for lift-off

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Aviation Private is a new townhome and condo community in Central East, equipped with resourceful, eco-friendly designs. The development is 75 per cent sold out. With only a few more blocks left to build, there are plenty of homes ready for move-in.

Housing amenities

The Terrace Home and Rear Lane Townhome models are Energy Star certified and have features such as water-saving toilets. The models come with varying features, including stainless steel appliances, private balconies or patios, nine-foot ceilings and hardwood flooring. They also offer parking.

Location and transit

Within walking distance of biking/walking paths and parks, the area is great for outdoor activities. The St. Laurent Shopping Centre is also close by, along with Hwy. 417 and main bus routes to downtown Ottawa, which is only 10 minutes away.

In the neighbourhood

The community is great for those commuting downtown, since it offers proximity while still being in a quieter part of the city, as well as better pricing. The neighbourhood has several schools, is equipped with the everyday amenities, and is not far from the Aviation and Space Museum.

ILANA REIMER /FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Aviation Private
Builder: Valecraft Homes
Designer: Valecraft Homes
Location: Off of Montreal Road
Building: Townhomes and condos
Sizes: 1,294 sq. ft. to 2218 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at $290,900
Model: Two to three bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 bathrooms
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Anytime
Sales centre: 170 Den Haag Dr.
Information: Phone: 613-680-4771; Website: valecraft.com

HOME PROJECT

Add some buzz to your backyard with DIY tile project

Transform an unfinished wood table with colourful tile and paint.

Step 1: Gather supplies:
- Coffee table
- Tile
- Paint
- Wood trim
- Sandpaper
- Pre-mixed tile adhesive & grout
- Notched trowel
- Rubber grout float
- Saw
- Painter's tape
- Tape measure
- Paintbrush
- Sponge and bowl

Step 2: Prep your surface.
Lightly sand the wood.

Step 3: Lay out the tile
Place your tile on the table surface. Allow space for grout lines (1/8" — 1/4"). Use painter's tape to mark an outside border. Adhesive will be applied within this border.

Step 4: Apply tile adhesive.
Use the flat edge of the trowel to apply a thin layer of adhesive. Immediately add more and use the square comb edge to distribute it, moving in one direction.

Step 5: Press tiles into place.
Starting in one corner, press the first tile in place ensuring it is straight and level. Repeat with all of the tiles, pressing into place and ensuring each and every one is straight and level. Make sure to leave space between tiles for grout lines. When you're done, remove the painter's tape. Clean any excess adhesive from edges with a damp rag. Let the tiles set for 24 hours.

Step 6: Apply grout.
Using a rubber grout float tool, apply grout to the tiles, pushing it gently into the grout lines. Ensure that the grout fills the lines and is relatively smooth.

Step 7: Clean off excess.
Fill a bowl or pail with water and use a damp sponge to remove excess grout from tiles. Let the grout set before removing the cloudy looking grout haze from the tiles. Let grout dry for 24 hours before handling.

Step 8: Trim.
Measure and cut wood trim to finish off the edging around tile. Paint the trim with two coats.

Step 9: Paint the table
Apply two coats of paint to all exposed wood on the table. Let dry according to product directions.

Step 10: Finish off with trim.
Fasten the trim onto the table with small finishing nails or use a strong glue like Gorilla Glue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's the perfect weekend project to transform a wood coffee table into a colourful tiled table. PHOTOS DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro SPORTS

Golfer Rory McIlroy opted out of the Rio Olympics because of concerns about the Zika virus, saying it is "a risk I am unwilling to take"

NBA IN BRIEF

Knicks land former MVP Rose in trade with Bulls

The New York Knicks acquired Derrick Rose from the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday, hoping the former NBA MVP can be their answer at point guard.

The Knicks sent centre Robin Lopez and guards Jose Calderon and Jerian Grant to the Bulls in the deal. New York also received guard Justin Holiday and a 2017 second-round pick, and waived point guard Tony Wroten.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland celebrates Cavs

Hundreds of thousands of fans overwhelmed downtown Cleveland to celebrate the Cavaliers' NBA championship.

Fans, celebrating the end of the city's 52-year championship drought, also stood on rooftops, portable toilets and hung out of office building windows hoping to get a glimpse of LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and their teammates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

Karlsson on same page as new coach

SENATORS

Star blue-liner buying into Guy Boucher's plan for team

Erik Karlsson is on board with Guy Boucher's plan for the Ottawa Senators.

The club hired Boucher as its head coach last month after Dave Cameron was dismissed following a disappointing 2015-16 campaign.

Karlsson had a standout year, finishing fifth in league scoring with 16 goals and 66 assists, but the Senators' superstar captain was unable to get his team into the playoffs as Ottawa missed out for the second time in three seasons.

The defenceman met with Boucher after the move was announced and liked what he heard from the former head coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"He's a very smart person and he knows what he wants," Karlsson said Tuesday at a media availability ahead of the NHL Awards. "He knows what he needs to do to get where he wants to go and where he wants us to go."

There has been talk that the 26-year-old Karlsson might have to alter his game in order for the Senators to have success after Ottawa gave up the most shots in the league and the fifth most goals against last season.

Senators captain Erik Karlsson says he liked what he heard from head coach Guy Boucher during a recent meeting. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

Guy Boucher GETTY IMAGES FILE

"I think the way (Boucher) formulated things for me was easy to understand and I completely bought into everything he had to say," said Karlsson. "I think everybody's going to do the same thing."

Karlsson added he did some research with a couple of Boucher's former players before sitting down with his new coach.

"Everybody that I've talked to said good things about him," said Karlsson. "I haven't heard anything bad that he brings to the table. Before going into meeting I had a very positive outlook." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL AWARDS

Karlsson was a finalist for the Norris Trophy as the top defenceman in the league, but the Kings' Drew Doughty left with the award. Karlsson was looking to win the Norris for the third time. For more on Wednesday's NHL awards, go to metronews.ca.

NHL

Board of governors all in on Las Vegas

The NHL is officially rolling the dice on Las Vegas.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league's board of governors has accepted an expansion bid from Las Vegas with the new team to begin play in the 2017-18 season.

He said Wednesday's vote was unanimous.

"We think this is a tremendously exciting opportunity, not just for Las Vegas, but for the league," Bettman said. "This expansion comes at a time when our game is more competitive than ever, ownership is stronger than ever, the player base is more talented than ever and the business, and the future opportunities for the business, are greater than ever."

$500M

Prospective Las Vegas owner Bill Foley will need to pay a $500-million US expansion fee. The last expansion team — Minnesota in 2000, paid just $80 million to join the league.

The board also decided to defer Quebec City's bid, despite the city having a brand new arena as part of its application to become the 31st NHL franchise. Bettman said the fluctuation of the Canadian dollar and the league's geographical imbalance — there are currently 16 teams in the Eastern Conference compared to 14 in the West — were factors that worked against Quebec City's bid.

"There is no doubt as to the passion for NHL hockey in Quebec City, there is no doubt as to the suitability of the Videotron Centre as a home arena for a team, and there is no doubt to the ownership credentials ... of Quebecor, which has been an outstanding partner," Bettman said.

The Las Vegas franchise will begin to populate its roster with an expansion draft prior to the 2017-18 season. Las Vegas will pick one player from each of the other 30 clubs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

France's song of Ice and Ire

Ireland advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship for the first time after it beat a reshuffled Italian side 1-0 on Wednesday.

An 85th minute late goal from Robbie Brady was enough for the spirited Ireland side to secure a place in the round of 16 as one of the best third-place teams. Its reward — a match against France in Lyon on Sunday.

"It was very special. I am thrilled, it was a great win," Ireland coach Martin O'Neill said. "We deserved to win. We played some phenomenal stuff. There wasn't a player in the Irish shirt that didn't play heroically."

EURO 2016 GROUP STAGE ENDS

Italy was already assured of top spot in Group E after two straight group wins.

Brady's goal was just reward for an inspired performance by the Ireland team, which needed to win to get through.

His goal, which stemmed from a cross by second-half substitute Wes Hoolahan, came just moments after Hoolahan himself had missed a golden chance to put Ireland ahead.

Iceland, the smallest nation at the Euros, delivered the feel-good story of the tournament by beating Austria 2-1 to qualify for the round of 16.

The victory, secured by a goal deep into stoppage time by Arnor Ingvi Traustason, earned Iceland's players the game they'd dreamed of: a last-16 match against England.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland's players celebrate scoring against Italy on Wednesday in Lille, France. FRANCOIS LO PRESTI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The CFL's hail Mary moment

While our U.S. neighbours have turned football into a religion — from the Friday night lights of high school fields to the ad-strewn Super Bowl — Canadians haven't embraced the game as much. The Canadian Football League has kicked off a new plan to create a deeper bond with younger fans to keep the game alive. Here is how they are doing it.

KATE PETTERSEN FOR METRO CANADA

The Canadian Football League is rich in talent and culture, but for the most part fans are born into it. Maybe your grandfather was a fan, your parents follow the league or your uncle used to play.

In a country where the sports landscape is growing at a rapid pace, arts and culture are thriving in major cities and the competition for peoples' interest continues to increase, the CFL recognized the need for a change.

"We want to keep the brand fresh, new and invigorated for our existing fan base," said Commissioner Jeffery Orridge. "At the same time we need to attract the attention of the next generation of fans."

Their league-wide rebrand is a push to attract millennials with a reenergized presence both on and off the field — one that showcases the skill and athleticism of its players and features a handful of new stadiums across the country.

A party in Montreal last month, featuring a late night performance by Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, marked the launch of a new clothing deal with Adidas.

More than 300 attendees packed the dance floor of Time Supper Club, staying until close, to mingle with players and snap photos with the Grey Cup.

And, fitting perfectly with the league's fresh mandate, the partnership includes new uniforms, sideline apparel and an Originals lifestyle collection for fans.

> **We need to attract the attention of the next generation of fans.**
> CFL Commissioner Jeffery Orridge

The Black Eyed Peas' Taboo performs at the Adidas clothing launch in Montreal. BOTH PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE CFL

Teams have also stepped up their social media presence in effort to create culture and recognition around Thursday Night Football, complete with in-game DJs, pre-game shows, and tailgating. Players are jumping on board to help spread the word: Whether it's Snapchat takeovers during practice, contests for fans on Instagram or behind the scenes video footage on road trips, access to social media is creating a deeper connection between fans and some of the league's brightest stars.

In terms of revamping the CFL's game day feel, the Argos' move to BMO field is a great example.

Their new location gives prospective fans a chance to walk from bars and restaurants in Liberty Village to the pre-game tailgate party. To help create hype around their new home, a few players made a surprise appearance at a local patio over the Victoria Day long weekend as celebrity servers, treating perspective fans to a complimentary round of drinks.

Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, said Orridge.

"The players love the idea of this new style CFL. They realize they are the most valuable assets of the league and it's a real focus that we're showcasing them not only on the field but also telling their stories off the field."

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CFL TEAM PREVIEWS

KATE PETTERSEN
FOR METRO CANADA
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE CFL

VANCOUVER

Revamping the Lions

A familiar face will be back on the sidelines as head coach of the BC Lions. When Wally Buono, one of the most successful coaches in CFL history, took over the role of General Manager, he promised his team he would return to the sidelines if that's where they needed him. Since then, despite making the playoffs each year, the Lions have not been able to win a playoff game. For Buono, it's apparent his team could use some rejuvenation.

"We have to be better as an organization and we have to be better as a football club," said Buono. "It starts with the coaches and the players. Exciting football sells and that's something that we want to do more this year." He'll have to shake the rust off but the role is nothing new for him. Buono spent nine seasons at the helm, his last in 2011, when he coached the Lions to a Grey Cup championship win.

OTTAWA

Capital development

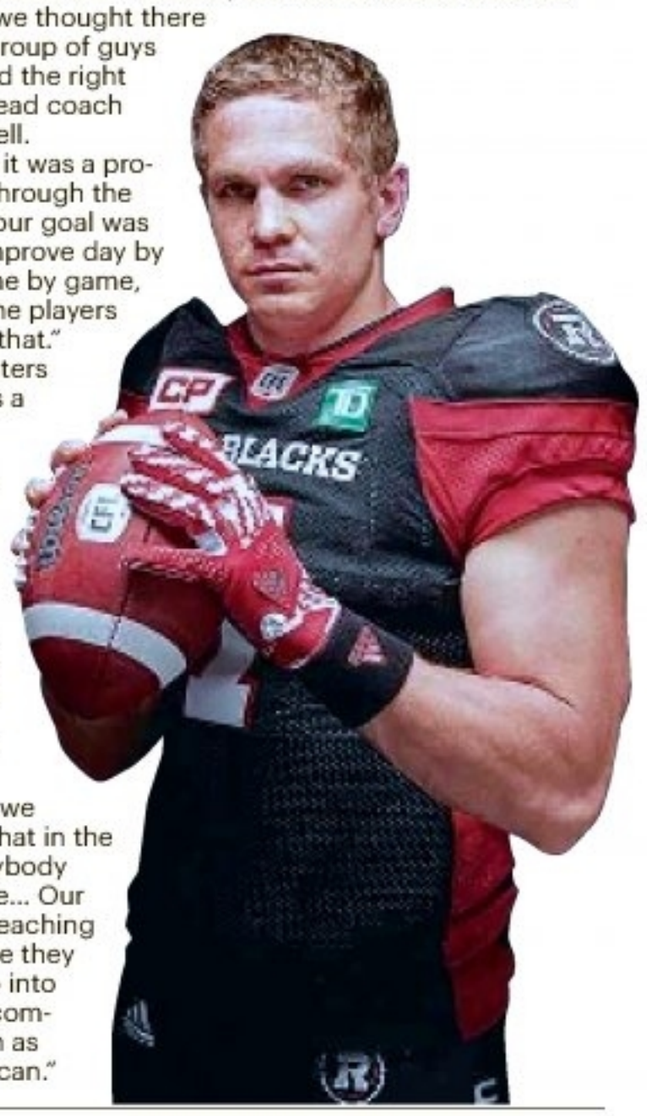
It was a rocky start on the field for the Ottawa REDBLACKS, winning just two games in their inaugural season. But, the team led by head coach Rick Campbell charged back to win their division and earn a berth in the 2015 Grey Cup in just their second season as a CFL franchise.

Despite losing to Edmonton in the final, the team chalks it up as a long-term win. "In 2014, the record wasn't what we wanted but we thought there was a core group of guys here who had the right stuff," said head coach Rick Campbell.

"We knew it was a process going through the season and our goal was literally to improve day by day and game by game, and I think the players bought into that."

Ottawa enters year three as a team with confidence in their plan and a foundation of success to build on. For the REDBLACKS, the dust has settled and it's all about winning.

"We think we can throw a hat in the ring with anybody in this league... Our players are reaching a point where they expect to go into games and compete and win as many as we can."



WINNIPEG

Refreshed roster

It's been a long time since the Winnipeg Blue Bombers have won a Grey Cup — 25 years in fact. And, after taking an "all-in approach" during the off-season, their roster looks impressive on paper.

Under the leadership of General Manager Kyle Waters, the Bombers made a big splash in the free agent market inking veteran running back Andrew Harris, receivers Weston Dressler and Ryan Smith and kicker Justin Medlock, all players with proven track records as big-time playmakers.

Heading into the 2016 season, Walters feels confident his staff added the right pieces to the puzzle.

"Everybody is starting off the same," he said. "You play the games and you win or lose and that's how we're judged. We're optimistic about the changes we've made."

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All participants receive a Ravens football jersey and a full cafeteria lunch each day. Helmets and shoulder pads are provided for the duration for camp.

"Your football summer camp ROCKED so much that the kids ask me to put them on the Ravens football Spring camp. Keep up the good work and a big thanks to all the people who participate in this camp to make it so memorable for my kids!" – Suzy Freitas (parent)

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CALGARY

Familiar face, new opportunity

Dave Dickenson finally has the opportunity he's been waiting for. He's a four-time Grey Cup champion and played 13 seasons before transitioning into various coaching positions with Calgary. This year, Dickenson heads into his 8th season on the Stampeders sideline, for his first as a head coach.

Despite his extensive experience with the Stamps organization, Dickenson knows the added responsibility is going to be a big transition.

"We've got to gel a little bit," he said. "Just like players, coaches need an opportunity and they show what they've got when they get that opportunity."

The good news for him, former bench boss Jon Hufnagel won't be too far away.

"I still want Huff very involved in pre-planning," he said of the teams new General Manager. "He's that extra voice, that guy that has done it. I've got a good guy to learn from.

EDMONTON

It's Reilly time

It was an eventful off-season for the Edmonton Eskimos and not in the way you'd expect for last year's champs. Head coach Chris Jones departed for Saskatchewan, with the majority of his coaching staff but he left one key piece behind. Mike Reilly is poised to have the best season of his career. The 31-year-old quarterback signed an extension with the Eskimos through 2018 and is riding the momentum of a solid finish last season. After a knee injury sidelined him for most of 2015, Reilly charged back leading his team to 10-straight wins including the Grey Cup, where he was awarded the MVP title.

"Our goal wasn't to win one Grey cup. It was to build a franchise that will win year after year," said Reilly. The big test will come when the season opens featuring rookie head coach Jason Maas. He's 40-year old CFL veteran who is looking for redemption after losing last years Grey Cup as a coach with Ottawa. So with all of that said, the Eskimos have two important guys with a chip on their shoulder and that could just be the winning combination.

TORONTO

Argonauts finally go home

It's a fresh start, a heightened sense of stability and a new place to call home. The Toronto Argonauts' move to BMO field under new ownership looks promising for the future of a franchise that has struggled to compete in Canada's largest sports market. Now, the task at hand is to grow the fan base, increase awareness and make Toronto a place players want to come play.

Two key dates in August, the 20th and 31st, represent a unique opportunity for the team. Their games have been strategically scheduled during the Canadian National Exhibition. A ticket to the game gets you into The Ex for free. Well played, Argos.

The challenge remains to re-introducing football to Torontonians as a social event by selling the game day environment and the exciting atmosphere.

"We are revolutionizing our game day experience by bringing tailgating to our games at BMO Field this year," said President and CEO Michael Copeland. "With our move to an outdoor and intimate stadium, we have a real opportunity to reinvent the Argos experience."

For die-hard football fans in Toronto, the Argos are finally playing in a stadium designed for football.

Settling into the season

Chris Jones jumped ship in Edmonton to join the Riders in Saskatchewan. Wally Buono is returning to the sidelines in B.C. Over 140 players hit the free-agent market in February. And those were just some of the headlines from a whirlwind CFL off-season. Here are four more stories to watch ahead of Thursday's season opener between the Ticats and Argos in Toronto.

1 Ageless wonder

Can veteran quarterback Henry Burris continue fending off Father Time? The 41-year-old was the CFL's outstanding player last season after leading Ottawa (12-6) to the Grey Cup in just its second season. Burris was the lone quarterback to start all 18 regular-season games, but the Redblacks signed former Argo Trevor Harris as insurance in free agency.

TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

BRENT JUST/GETTY IMAGES

4 New rules

The CFL adopted 10 rule changes this off-season, including the addition of a video official to address errors not covered by replay challenges. Also, coaches will be allowed to challenge offensive pass interference, illegal contact, illegal interference, no yards, called illegal blocks on kick plays, roughing the passer and kicker and illegal interference at the point of reception on kickoff attempts. Unsuccessful two-point converts will be automatically reviewed by the replay official.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

2 Quarterback question marks

Several other teams open the season with questions at quarterback. Veteran Darian Durant returns as Saskatchewan's starter, but he's coming off two injury-plagued seasons. Ricky Ray's healthy return in Toronto from shoulder woes is pivotal with Harris moving on to Ottawa. Winnipeg's hopes bank on a big year from injury-prone Drew Willy. And in Hamilton, the Ticats open the season minus starter Zach Collaros, who continues to recover from last year's season-ending knee injury.

Doping monitored again 3

There will be drug testing in the CFL this year. There was none in 2015 after the league severed its partnership with the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports, which resumes its role of conducting the tests. The number of tests performed will be equal to 100 per cent of the players in the league. Those testing positive face a two-game suspension for a first violation. It will increase to nine games for a second and a one-year ban for a third. A fourth offence results in a lifetime ban.

FRANCK FIFE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DRAFTKINGS

Fantasy arrives north of border

Fantasy sports fans will soon be able to draft their favourite Canadian Football League players.

Online daily fantasy sports site DraftKings announced Monday that it will host CFL contests for the first time when the season kicks off June 23.

DraftKings allows users to make a team from athletes in major league sports and compete for cash or bragging rights (if users opt to play contests without an entry fee) based on their team members' performance in real life.

The partnership is only for the 2016 season, but the company hopes to continue working with the CFL in future years, said Jeffrey Haas, the site's chief international officer.

DraftKings and the CFL have partnered to run several contests without an entry free. The first free contest will have $5,000 prize. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRENCH, ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE
PART TIME
12 weeks (36 hours in class and 36 hours online)
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (9 LEVELS)
July 5 to September 24, 2016
Evenings: 6 pm to 9 pm (8 Levels)
Saturdays: 9am to noon (6 Levels)
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (6 LEVELS)
July 5 to September 24, 2016
NEW! Evenings: 6 pm to 9 pm (6 Levels)
NEW! Saturdays: 9 am to noon (2 Levels)
FULL TIME
4 weeks (60 hours in class and 60 hours online)
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (6 LEVELS)
July 4 to July 29, 2016
Levels 1, 3 and 5: 9 am to noon
Levels 2, 4 and 6: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (2 LEVELS)
July 4 to July 29, 2016
NEW! Level 2-3: 9 am to noon; Level 5: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
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RECIPE Grilled Shrimp Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The black beans and corn make this a hearty and satisfying meal.

Ready in
Prep time: 1 hour
Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- couple of grinds of black pepper
- 1 pound large shrimp,
- 4 or 5 wooden skewers
- 2 or 3 cobs of corn
- 1 x 19 ounce can black beans
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 avocado, diced
- 4 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp lime juice
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 head Boston lettuce, washed, spun and chopped

Directions

1. Mix together vegetable oil, lime juice, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic and pepper in a bowl. Add shrimp, cover, and place in the fridge for about an hour. Soak your wooden skewers.

2. Oil your grill and turn on high. Place corn on top and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, turning every 5 minutes. Remove and allow to cool before slicing off the kernels. Mix corn, beans, chopped peppers and coriander in a bowl. Fold in avocado. Whisk together oil, lime juice, salt, cumin and pepper. Dress the bean mixture.

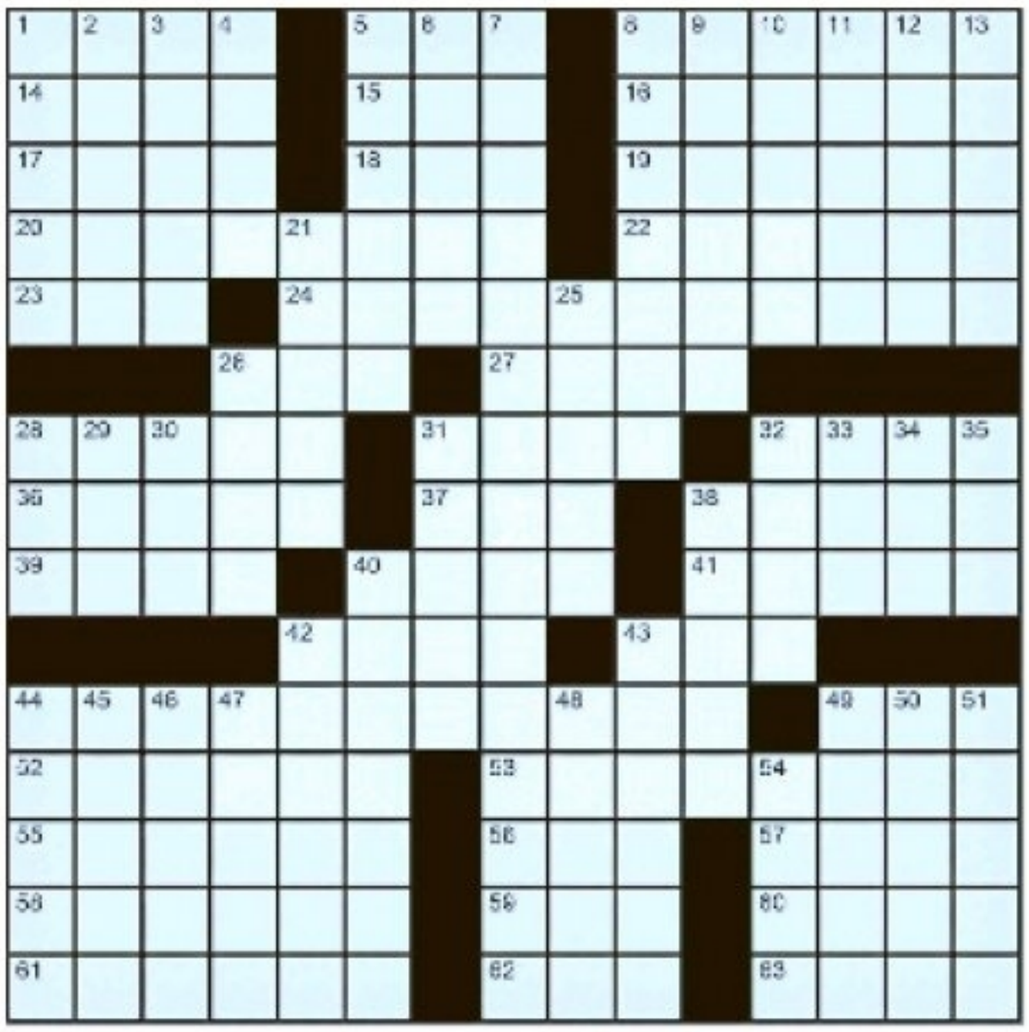
4. Take shrimp out of fridge and put about three on each skewer. Barbecue for about six minutes. Allow them to cool slightly before sliding them off the skewers.

4. On a serving plate, arrange the chopped lettuce and pile the beans and grilled shrimp on top.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" character
5. "Sunglasses at Night" singer ...his initials-sharers
8. Lassos
14. Fort __, Ontario
15. Derisive shout!
16. Make certain
17. Ms. Olin
18. Sweat spot
19. "Bird Song" by Canadian band The __' Jennys
20. 'The Great' river in Quebec: 2 mots
22. Bands like Arcade Fire
23. Diane's portrayer on "Cheers" ...her initials-sharers
24. 2009 Adam Sandler movie about an unwell comedian, co-starring Vancouver-born actor Seth Rogen: 2 wds.
26. __ Angeles
27. Leaver
28. Google alternative
31. Gov. agents
32. Hat-tipper's polite address
36. Politically pick
37. White House nickname
38. Vocalize
39. Fish __
40. Folk singer/actor Mr. Ives
41. Rankin __, Nunavut
42. Pre-midnight time, __ 'clock
43. Genetic info carrier
44. 'Jewel of the Eastern Townships' village in Quebec: 2 wds.
49. Nature's swimming pool, in French
52. Off the boat/On the beach
53. Catholic prayer: 2 wds.
55. Comic actress Ms. Leachman
56. Manchester's li'l country
57. Guitarist Mr. Clapton
58. Delete private information
59. Operated
60. President's desk locale, __ Office
61. Obliterates
62. Charlotte, to Emily or Anne, for short
63. Lessen

DOWN
1. Where wishes are made
2. Cosmetics company, L'__
3. Tree growth indicators
4. Foreboding
5. The Swan constellation
6. Austrian composer, Joseph __ (b.1732 - d.1809)
7. Yosh and Stan on "SCTV": 2 wds.
8. Towel dries the still-wet dish
9. More asinine
10. Rita Coolidge/Kris Kristofferson duet: "Blue ___"
11. Dutch flower
12. The Tempest spirit
13. Perception
21. In progress
25. Sing in The Alps
26. Key's pal
28. Hitherto
29. Neighbour of Tenn.
30. Egg-warming bird
31. Region's animal life
32. Homer Simpson's mother
33. Garlic: French
34. Whiz
35. NYC opera house
38. Retro record
40. Commands
42. Three*times
43. Condescends
44. Mother-of-pearl
45. Saskatchewan town near Saskatoon
46. Valerie Harper title sitcom role
47. Words in a 1970 war picture's title!
48. Hawaiian island
49. Caterpillar, for example
50. 'Parliament' suffix
51. Pedal
54. __ Mix (Cat food brand)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone older might have excellent advice for you today. Probably, this person is a female. At the very least, listen to what she has to say.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will impress people in authority (bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs) with your serious, conscientious, responsible attitude today. They know they can depend on you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day to make long-range travel plans. It's also a good day to discuss opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Roll up your sleeves and clean away loose details about inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt. This is also a good day to do banking details and pay bills.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have to compromise with others today, because the Moon is in a sign that is opposite your sign. It works that way. This simply requires a little patience. No biggie.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be productive at work today because you have the attitude and energy necessary to do routine stuff. Get as much done as possible while you are in this mood.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might develop a crush on someone older today, or vice versa. In addition, you will take your responsibilities regarding children very seriously.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Family discussions will be practical and serious today. In fact, an older family member might have important input. This is a good day to plan how to better secure your home.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It pleases you today to do things that help your life to be more orderly. You are in a practical frame of mind, and you want to see things around you work smoothly.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will buy only items that are practical and long-lasting. No feather boas for you! You want to save money.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Because the Moon is in your sign today, you might feel more emotional than usual. However, you also might be luckier than usual! Ask the universe for a favor to see what happens.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Working alone or doing behind-the-scenes research appeals to you today. You won't overlook details because you have the right frame of mind to do this.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	1				3	8		
9					5		6	
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	7		1					2
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				4		5		

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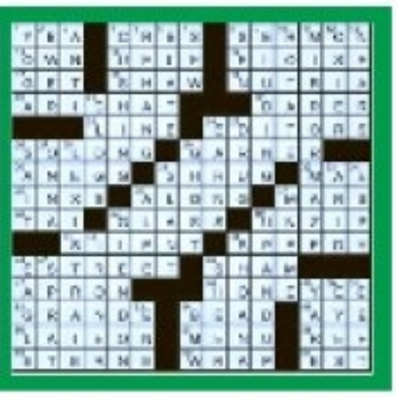
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3	4
8	9	5	6	3	4	2	1	7
7	4	3	9	2	1	8	5	6
1	2	6	7	8	3	4	9	5
5	3	7	1	4	9	6	2	8
4	8	9	5	6	2	3	7	1
3	6	1	4	9	7	5	8	2
2	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	9
9	7	4	2	5	8	1	6	3



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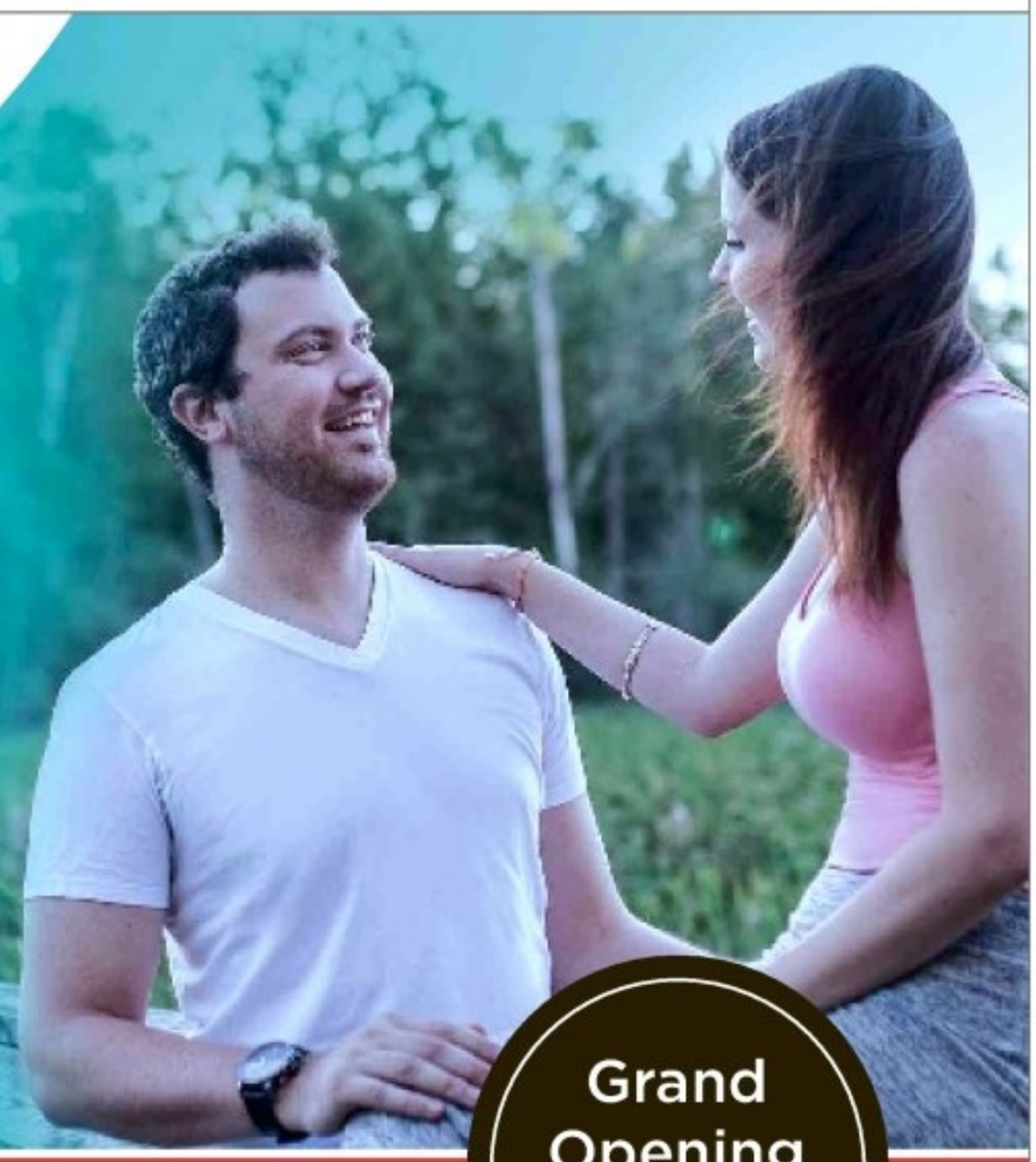

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